**Reflection – Student Exemplar**

In my mock trial I played the role of crown attorney. In the process of writing and presenting the mock trial I learned many things concerning my roles and also about law in general. As a crown attorney, the burden was on me to prove the guilt of the accused and in order to achieve the goal of punishment for the accused I had to provide enough evidence and testimony that the jury had no doubt in their mind that the accused was guilty. It wasn't until partway through the project when I was writing my portion of the script when I finally realized how hard it really is to do this. This part of the trial was quite frustrating but it also teaches a very valuable skill. In real life, even if it is not in a law setting, in order to win arguments and to have your way in certain situations you need to show clear proof of your side of the argument and you must also be able to fully convince people of your side of the argument is absolutely correct. This is a valuable life skill which is very useful to have.

This assignment also taught me a lot about problem solving. The court process is one which can be used in almost every situation where there is conflict or disagreement. Both sides of the story are heard, outside opinions from people somewhat involved in the case are given and the decision as to who has done wrong is decided by a third party who is unbiased. This process, when followed correctly can solve disputes between individuals no matter how big or small the problem is in everyday life.

After having presented my mock trial, I have identified an area which I could have improved on if I had to redo the project. The area was the questioning of my witnesses. I chose to mainly ask questions which focused on the character of the individual and tried to produce a certain image of them to the jury. I tried to have Smasher and Crusher portrayed as bad kids and have the victim (Smith) portrayed as a perfect student and respectful individual. I did this because I had a lack of evidence given to me, however, if I had to redo the project I would spend a lot more time with my group creating more evidence and a more detailed story in order to be able to properly examine the witnesses using specific information concerning charges instead of asking questions which show the character of the individuals I was examining.

After seeing the other mock trial, I would make some small changes to mine if I could redo it again. I would put more specifics into the charges (sections, etc.). The experience of sitting as the jury member was interesting. As a jury member, you need to toss aside all possible biases and personal feelings towards the case and simply judge based on the facts presented during the case which is a good exercise and skill which incorporated into real life can prove to be very useful.

All in all, I learned a lot while doing this project and I think it also helped me discover some of my weaknesses in the area which I can now work on and it also helped me see how court procedure and strategies used in the court can be easily used outside of court to solve everyday problems and have your opinion acknowledged.